

Message Text

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14

ACTION DLOS-04

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ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SUBJ: JAPANESE REACTION TO SENATE APPROVAL OF 200-MILE
FISHERIES BILL

REFS: (A) STATE 023664, (B) TOKYO 1717

SUMMARY: US SENATE VOTE TO ESTABLISH UNILATERALLY
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A 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE HAS JOLTED JAPANESE.

DARK, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, DAYS ARE FORESEEN FOR JAPANESE PELAGIC FISHING INDUSTRY. NEWSPAPERS HAVE UNIFORMLY ADVOCATED VIGOROUS BILATERAL DIPLOMACY TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO FISHERIES OFF FOREIGN COASTS. FURTHER, THERE ARE SIGNS OF EMERGENT CONSENSUS THAT, ON BASIS ALMOST ANY REGIME BETTER THAN NO REGIME, GOJ SHOULD AND WILL PUSH FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF OMNIBUS LOS TREATY. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATE VOTE TO ESTABLISH 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE AS OF JULY 1, 1977, HAS STARTLED JAPANESE PUBLIC. MEDIA REPORTS OF REACTIONS SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT AND FISHERIES CIRCLES, DESPITE MANY RECENT INDICATIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO THE CONTRARY, CLUNG TO NOTION THAT "SUCH A SUPERPOWER AS AMERICA" WOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF LOS CONFERENCE. IN VIEW OF JAPANESE "RESTRAINT" PERCEIVED HERE AND ALLEGED INSIGNIFICANCE OF FISH IN US DIET, DOMINANT REACTION SEEMS TO BE THAT WE HAVE ACTED SELFISHLY. ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS HAVE SAID SO EDITORIALY. TOKYO REACTION IN PART REFLECTS LAY ASSUMPTION, HOWEVER ILL-FOUNDED, THAT IF US DID NOT OPT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE, LOS CONFERENCE MIGHT POSSIBLY DECIDE AGAINST RECOGNITION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES.

2. FISHERIES AGENCY, NOTING THAT ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL JAPANESE CATCH COMES FROM AMERICAN PACIFIC COASTAL WATERS, AND SOME 43 PERCENT FROM WITHIN 200 MILES OF FOREIGN COASTS, HAS TOLD PRESS THAT "SITUATION IS SERIOUS." AN AGENCY SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT JAPANESE POSITION THAT "FISHING OPERATIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS ARE FREE" IS NO LONGER TENABLE, HOWEVER MUCH JAPANESE MAY DISPLAY CONSERVATION CONSCIOUSNESS. THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-MILE ZONES WILL WEAKEN JAPAN'S BARGAINING POSITION, "OUR COUNTRY'S FISHING OPERATIONS WILL NOT BE SHUT OUT." HE PROMISED "ALL-OUT EFFORTS" TO PRESERVE PRESENT JAPANESE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS, STRESSING THAT COSTS WOULD LIKELY RISE CONSIDERABLY, AND SAID FURTHER THAT AGENCY WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARE SEVEN-YEAR COASTAL FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

3. NEWSPAPERS, IN ADDITION TO DEPLORING US MOVE, HAVE EDITORIALIZED THAT JAPAN MUST FACE UP TO FACT THAT NEW AND DIFFICULT ERA IS DAWNING. UNANIMOUSLY THEY PRESCRIBE TOUGH AND PERSISTENT BILATERAL DIPLOMACY TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO FISHERIES NEAR FOREIGN COASTS, IMPLYING THAT GOJ EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN QUITE

INADEQUATE. ALL MAJOR PAPERS ALSO ENDORSE NOTION OF PROMOTING COASTAL FISHERIES, E.G., BY ESTABLISHMENT OF 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND BY ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES. NIHON KEIZAI (JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL) IN PARTICULAR HAS EXPOUNDED SUPERIORITY OF INTERNATIONALLY-SANCTIONED OCEAN REGIME, WHATEVER ITS UNPLEASANT FEATURES, TO STATE OF ANARCHY. IN SERIES OF EDITORIALS IT HAS DECLARED IT "TIME FOR JAPAN'S MARINE DIPLOMACY TO CHANGE FROM DEFENSE TO OFFENSE," AND HAS CALLED ON GOJ TO TAKE THE LEAD IN BRINGING LOS CONFERNECE TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

4. CONSENSUS APPARENTLY IS BUILDING THROUGH DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRESS, MARITIME INTERESTS AND ELEMENTS OF BUREAUCRACY FOR "MORE POSITIVE" JAPANESE ROLE IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS, WITH EARLY CONCLUSION OF TREATY THE GOAL. IN ADDITION TO EDITORIALIZING REPORTED ABOVE, WE NOTE HOPES EXPRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN BUDGETARY HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2 FOR EARLY LOS TREATY (WHICH INCIDENTALLY WOULD RESOLVE FOR GOJ QUESTION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN HOARY "THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES" AND PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR ARMED VESSELS THROUGH STRAITS TO BE ENCLOSED WHEN JAPAN ESTABLISHES 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA) (REF B). FURTHER, "OCEAN AFFAIRS DIETMENS' LEAGUE" (LDP DEPUTIES' MARITIME CAUCUS) AT GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 3 REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO CALL ON GOJ TO SUPPORT RECOGNITION BY LOS TREATY OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES. LEAGUE'S REVERSAL OF POSITION IS APPARENTLY BASED ON CONCLUSION THAT THIS CONCESSION TO THE INEVITABLE WILL IMPROVE CHANCES OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON OMNIBUS TREATY. FINALLY, FOREIGN OFFICIE'S INSTRUCTIONS TO NEW CHIEF DELEGATE TO LOS TALKS, MASATO JUJISAKI, REPORTEDLY INCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONG SUPPORT OF 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, WITH RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE THROUGH ENCLOSED STRAITS, AND ACQUIESCENCE TO RECOGNITION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC WATERS. (BIODATA ON AMBASSADOR FUJISAKI WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.)
HODGSON

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